



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT,
CULTURE & EDUCATION

EMBRACE Symposium

Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: May 30

Notification Deadline: Late June

About the Symposium

The Office of Assessment, Culture, and Education in the Division of Access and Engagement is excited to announce our inaugural EMBRACE Symposium, which will take place in the Student Union on November 12, 2025. The acronym “EMBRACE” stands for **E**nacting **M**ethodologies that **B**ridge **R**eflection and **A**ssessment to **C**enter **E**xcellence. As the title implies, this symposium will help to advance a culture of assessment and accountability on campus by fostering community among professionals engaged in the work of assessment and evaluation, helping participants connect the reflection and assessment skills needed to promote impartial policies and practices, and creating opportunities to celebrate units, departments, and academic areas that have leveraged reflective assessment practices as a tool for positive change either on campus or in the local community.

Through this initiative, we aspire to educate the campus community about the value of assessment practices in cultivating working and learning environments where all matter, belong, and thrive.

Topics of Interest

All staff, faculty, postdocs, and graduate/professional students are encouraged to submit proposals for review.

Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate success in leveraging assessment practices to promote positive change. Therefore, proposals should focus on one or more of the following topics:

- Using data to advocate for campus policy or practice changes to eliminate barriers.
- Making data-informed decisions to foster welcoming and supportive learning or work environments.
- Successfully implementing an assessment and using the data to improve/enhance participants' experiences.

- Leveraging lessons learned from an assessment to advocate for necessary research/support for fair practices.
- How qualitative and quantitative data can be integrated to gain a deeper understanding of students' needs and understanding how to support the holistic student experience.
- Creating a culture of assessment and enhanced data literacy to build capacity on your team.
- Involving graduate and undergraduate students in data collection and decision making to promote access and better meet their needs.

Presentation Formats

To ensure high levels of participation, presenters can share their work through various methods.

Panel (60 minutes)

Panels are structured conversations about an assessment or evaluation project or process. Panels establish an initial set of questions and are moderated. These sessions also include an opportunity for questions from attendees to expand upon the panelists' responses.

Poster Session

The poster session provides opportunities for a more casual and interactive way for participants to showcase assessment or evaluation ideas still in formation, ongoing projects, or innovative practices, among others. All posters will be displayed at a specific time during the conference, and presenters must be available to discuss their work with attendees.

Workshop (60 minutes)

These sessions provide opportunities for presenters to share assessment and evaluation projects, processes, and initiatives, or professional development opportunities that engage participants in building skills to address specific opportunities and challenges in assessment or evaluation.

Roundtable discussions (60 minutes)

These sessions are small-group, open discussions where participants can equally contribute and share ideas on a specific topic. It's often facilitated by a moderator to guide the conversation and ensure a focused exchange of perspectives. This format encourages collaborative brainstorming and in-depth exploration of an issue surrounding the processes of assessment or evaluation.

Works in progress (25 minutes):

Refers to assessment or evaluation projects that are not yet fully developed or completed, but are being presented for feedback, discussion, and potential collaboration. It provides a platform for presenters to share their current project(s) and receive comments from other conference attendees before the work is finalized.

Submission Process

When submitting your proposal in Qualtrics, please provide a comprehensive overview (see form below) that includes your presentation's title, how it aligns with a specific topic area(s), and a concise summary of the key points and objectives you plan to cover. Identify any co-presenters and their title/relevant expertise, outline technology needs, and include any additional helpful information that highlights the unique value of your proposal.

Include the following in your proposal:

- format (e.g., workshop, roundtable discussion, etc.)
- title
- topic of Interest area(s)
- summary of presentation/discussion
- co-presenter(s)
- technology needs
- abstract
- main takeaways from session
- any other relevant information you would like to share

Guidelines for your Submission

- Acceptable file formats for supporting documents include .docx or .pdf.
- Please be sure to note in the abstract how your presentation is connected to the symposium's aim to elevate reflective assessment practices as a tool for positive change either on campus or in the local community.
- Abstracts should be a minimum of 100 words and a maximum of 500 words.

Timeline and Contact Info:

Submit your proposals by May 30, 2025. Notifications of acceptance will be delivered by late June. [Use the Qualtrics form to submit your proposal.](#) For more information, contact us directly at **embrace@utk.edu**.

We look forward to your participation in making this symposium a success!